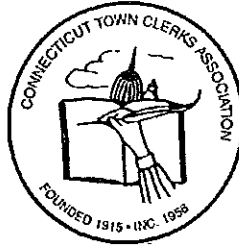


# Connecticut Town Clerks Association, Inc.

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## TESTIMONY

March 16, 2015

### Government, Administration & Elections Committee

Good afternoon Senator Cassano, Representative Jutila, Senator McLachlan, Representative Smith and the distinguished members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee. I would like to address Raised Bill 1083 An Act Concerning Ways to regionalize, professionalize and enhance the efficiency of Election Administration on behalf of the CT Town Clerks Association.

As this bill proposes to have a task force to study election administration, it suggests membership of Legislators, Organizations representing municipalities, Agencies, Municipal officials and Registrars of voters. These members all could be considered "stakeholders" in the Election Administration process.

The 169 Town Clerks are certainly "stakeholders" as well, and should be considered in this membership group. Town clerks have a large responsibility with Elections from admitting electors, Absentee Ballots, Election Preparation (legal notices, list of candidates, ballot orders, etc.), nominations, and certifying final Election Documents.

Town Clerks have extensive experience in the total Election process as well as understanding many of the complex Election laws. Town Clerks continually pursue education classes and training both locally, state and nationally to research best practices of Elections. We feel this type of experience would be invaluable to a committee such as this.

We respectfully request that this legislation include 2 seats for Town Clerks (one from a population of less than 20,000 and one from a population of more than 20,000) to participate on this panel. We are confident that we will be able to contribute to this task force in a meaningful manner.

Thank you for considering this testimony.

Essie S. Labrot, Town Clerk, West Hartford  
Chair, Legislative & Elections Committee